

pulse for the King, whose diplomacy was failing with age and the menace of the two empires. Yet the triumph of the Pope was not of a permanent kind, * and the King quitted the mainland for the last time, to act with as little deference to his Papal suzerain as before.

During the few years that remained of his life, Roger, from his court at Palermo, had yet to parry the final stroke which his imperial enemies contemplated. The plans by which he hoped fatally to embarrass Manuel and Conrad had been carefully built up at the close of the Second Crusade, when the return of the most distinguished of the Crusaders revived the hopes which had failed him during the Crusade itself. Welf, brother of Henry the Lion of Saxony, had then returned by Sicily; Roger invited him to his court, and entrusted him with letters to Conrad's leading opponents in Germany, such as Henry himself and Frederick of Swabia. Welf, returning home, was to work up a league of princes against Conrad, which the King of Sicily was to assist with troops and money.

By his understanding with Welf, and his unofficial alliance with Louis, Roger struck all the strings of European diplomacy. By a final

reconciliation
with *the* Pope, by keeping alive the
idea of a fresh

¹ By the treaty of Benevento, **1156**, William I.,
son of Roger,,
secured from Hadrian IV, a re-grant of Logatino
power for Sicily,
with a veto upon appeals to Rome: *vide* Caspar, *Die*
Legateng&»
wait, op, «/.,, p. 205.